

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A mat-shaped thermal insulator made of inorganic fiber, wherein

at least a part of inorganic fibers is built-up in a direction parallel to lateral surfaces of the insulator,

the insulator has a density of about 10^{-32} kg/m³,

the lateral surfaces of the insulator are inclined, and

said insulator is formed by

cutting a fibrous built-up article formed by building-up inorganic fibers, to form cut built-up articles,

rotating at least one of the cut articles by an angle of 90 degrees in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction, to form a rotated built-up article in which the inorganic fibers are built-up in a direction parallel to lateral sides of the cut article, and

integrating the cut articles and/or the rotated article transversally in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A mat-shaped thermal insulator made of inorganic fiber,
wherein

at least a part of inorganic fibers is built-up in a direction parallel to lateral surfaces of the insulator,

the insulator has a density of about 10^{-32} kg/m³,

~~The thermal insulator according to claim 1, wherein~~

_____ the insulator is provided with longitudinal cuts on the lateral surfaces of the insulator so as to make the insulator partially compressible,

_____ said insulator is formed by

_____ cutting a fibrous built-up article formed by building-up inorganic fibers, to form cut built-up articles,

_____ rotating at least one of the cut articles by an angle of 90 degrees in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction, to form a rotated built-up article in which the inorganic fibers are built-up in a direction parallel to lateral sides of the cut article, and

_____ integrating the cut articles and/or the rotated article transversally in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.

4. (Previously Presented) The thermal insulator according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the surfaces of the insulator is coated by a facing material.

5. (Previously Presented) The thermal insulator according to claim 4, wherein said insulator and the facing material are bonded to each other by means of an adhesive agent, and the adhesive agent is applied to a part of an opposing surface of the insulator and/or the facing material.

6. (Previously Presented) The thermal insulator according to claim 4, wherein said insulator and the facing material are bonded to each other by means of an adhesive agent, and the adhesive agent is applied to an entire opposing surface of the insulator and/or the facing material.

7. (Previously Presented) A package of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, wherein

said package comprises a packaging bag and aligned thermal insulating articles packaged in the packaging bag,

said aligned articles are compressed transversally,

said aligned articles are formed by arranging a plurality of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators according to claim 1, in parallel and/or by laying the insulators one on the other, and

in each of said mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, inorganic fibers are built-up in a direction of a width of the aligned article.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) The thermal insulator according to ~~claim 2~~, claim 1, wherein the insulator is provided with longitudinal cuts on the lateral surfaces of the insulator so as to make the insulator partially compressible.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) The thermal insulator according to claim 3, wherein at least one of the surfaces of the insulator is coated by a facing material.

12. (Currently Amended) A package of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, wherein

said package comprises a packaging bag and aligned thermal insulating articles packaged in the packaging bag,

said aligned articles are compressed transversally,

said aligned articles are formed by arranging a plurality of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators according to ~~claim 2~~claim 1, in parallel and/or by laying the insulators one on the other, and

in each of said mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, inorganic fibers are built-up in a direction of a width of the aligned article.

13. (Previously Presented) A package of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, wherein

said package comprises a packaging bag and aligned thermal insulating articles packaged in the packaging bag,

said aligned articles are compressed transversally,

said aligned articles are formed by arranging a plurality of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators according to claim 3, in parallel and/or by laying the insulators one on the other, and

in each of said mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, inorganic fibers are built-up in a direction of a width of the aligned article.

14. (Previously Presented) A package of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, wherein

said package comprises a packaging bag and aligned thermal insulating articles packaged in the packaging bag,

said aligned articles are compressed transversally,

said aligned articles are formed by arranging a plurality of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators according to claim 4, in parallel and/or by laying the insulators one on the other, and

in each of said mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, inorganic fibers are built-up in a direction of a width of the aligned article.

15. (Previously Presented) A package of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, wherein

said package comprises a packaging bag and aligned thermal insulating articles packaged in the packaging bag,

said aligned articles are compressed transversally,

said aligned articles are formed by arranging a plurality of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators according to claim 5, in parallel and/or by laying the insulators one on the other, and

in each of said mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, inorganic fibers are built-up in a direction of a width of the aligned article.

16. (Previously Presented) A package of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, wherein

said package comprises a packaging bag and aligned thermal insulating articles packaged in the packaging bag,

said aligned articles are compressed transversally,

said aligned articles are formed by arranging a plurality of mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators according to claim 6, in parallel and/or by laying the insulators one on the other, and

in each of said mat-shaped inorganic fiber thermal insulators, inorganic fibers are built-up in a direction of a width of the aligned article.